

## **Personal Statement**

There is a proverb that says “sometimes in order to find yourself, you must get lost first”, and this is exactly what happened to me before I discovered my vocation. As a child, I always thought I knew what I wanted to study. I made plans for my future as if I knew where I was heading in my career because I strongly believed that I would be able to map my way there without any trouble. However, I never took into consideration how unexpected life can be, and how quickly everything can change. All my plans, my dreams, and the carefully constructed map I created to reach my goals went into the garbage ten years ago when my parents decided to move our family to live here in the United States. Nevertheless, what I felt as my biggest misfortune, today I see as one of my greatest blessings because all those obstacles that I had to overcome allowed me to discover a passion for Academic Counseling.

Leaving behind a comfortable life and becoming an immigrant is not easy. Not only I had to get used to live in a house with another family, learned a new language and culture, found a job to help my parents financially, but I also had to carry the nostalgia of leaving everything behind. I could say that these years have been the most difficult time in my life, but at the same time it has also been the most rewarding. I have learned that when I have to fight for what I want, my success gives me a sense of accomplishment that just being handed my desire can never match. Ten years ago, I thought that the possibility of getting a degree in this country was probably impossible for me. I did not understand the educational system, I did not speak the language, and to pay thousands of dollars on tuition was something unimaginable! I did not know where to start. In high school, I was not accepted because I was 18 years old, and my parents, the people who had always resolved everything in my life did not know how to help me. I felt like I did not have many choices. I knew that my parents would not let me go back to

Mexico until I tried all the possibilities, and I was really angry with them for that. I am so glad that my parents did not keep me from experiencing all the challenges that life brings. The sense of satisfaction and accomplishment that I felt after earning my A.A in Business Administration has outweighed all the difficulties that I had to overcome when I felt that I had lost everything.

Now, when I look back and see how my life had changed, I can only smile and say thanks to my parents for giving me the opportunity to fight for what I have wanted. Today, I say proudly that I perceive being an immigrant as one of my greatest advantages because this experience has given me a completely different perspective on life. Everything that I experienced and what I had to overcome has given me the conviction that I can achieve anything that I set my mind to, so I cannot wait to start my new chapter in Sacramento State University and earn my B.A. in International Business.